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Declaration of Principles of the SOCIALIST PARTY IN THE 1930 Congressional Campaign

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THE Republican administration of the national government was voted into office on the promise of continued prosperity. It has failed as utterly as the last Democratic administration, elected on a pledge of continued peace.

Artificial prosperity, built up in America largely at the expense of a ruined and starved Europe, has collapsed like a house of cards.

Already this year over 30,000 business concerns have been driven into bankruptcy, while the large and powerful banks are tightening their grip on the people by means of gigantic combines and holding companies.

The wheels of industry have been slackened or stopped and over five million persons have been robbed of the opportunity to work and to earn a living for themselves and their families.

The vast army of unemployed created by the acute industrial depression is augmented by hundreds of thousands of workers, who, at the age of sixty or even fifty, are permanently eliminated as "too old" from our strenuous, life-consuming and merciless economic system.

There is no relief for the victims of our insane industrial order so long as the government of our country remains in the hands of the two old parties. Both are pledged to the continuance of the individualistic, wasteful, oppressive, "dog eat dog," capitalist system. Both are managed and financed by the beneficiaries of that merciless system.

While the war-stricken governments of Europe make provisions for the support of their people deprived of an opportunity to work by unemployment, old age or sickness, our government is callous and indifferent to the needs and claims of its citizens who have given their youth, health and lives in building up the wealth of the country.

Scarcely anything has been expended by our

government on social insurance, but 75 percent of our annual budget was appropriated by the last Congress for military purposes. Twelve years after the victorious end of "the war to end all wars," our government is expending ever increasing and staggering sums to bring about new wars.

While Congress has failed to meet the needs of the farmers and the wage workers, it has enacted the most monstrous tariff legislation in the history of the country. Heavy and drastic duties on imported commodities will tax the American consumer billions of dollars as additional tribute to the manufacturing interests. It has, in effect, declared economic war against the rest of the world and served to aggravate the instability of world economy and world trade.

The maladministration of our government is not accidental. It is the logical and inevitable result of the political monopoly of the country by the ruling classes under the alternating label of the Republican and Democratic parties. The substantial concessions to the farmers and wage-workers in the advanced countries abroad have been wrung from the ruling classes of those countries by the persistent, intelligent struggles of the political parties of Socialism and Labor organized in opposition to the parties of the profiteering interests.

The American people will secure relief from political maladministration, economic oppression and social injustice only when they have a powerful political party of their own to fight the old parties of capitalism, a party of workers by hand and by brain, a party of the producing population in industry and agriculture.

The Socialist Party is the only true political party of the people and in this Congressional campaign it claims the support of the workers and of all men and women of all other classes earnestly devoted to the ideals of justice, liberty and peace, to the end that it may rescue the government from predatory hands. It will rebuild the country on the basis of the common ownership of the vital industries and their planful operation for the benefit of the whole people. Thus it will insure prosperity and happiness at home and peace with the rest of the world.

Our candidates for Congress favor, and if elected will support, the following principles and measures:

Unemployment Relief

UNEMPLOYMENT is a product of the capitalist system of private ownership and un-

regulated and irresponsible direction of industry. It would be eliminated in an economic system of planned production for social use. But even now, the tragic situation of millions of unemployed workers and their families can be relieved by the following steps which we have advocated for years:

1. Social insurance against unemployment.
2. The shortening of the work day and week.
3. The immediate extension of public works, and the prompt introduction of long-range planning of all future public works.
4. Federal cooperation with state and city public employment offices.
5. Public loans to states and municipalities for the purpose of carrying on public works.
6. The ratification of the Federal Child Labor Amendment.

Social Insurance

IN addition, we favor the establishment of a comprehensive system of social insurance with adequate benefits, to include provisions against economic losses resulting from sickness, maternity, accident, invalidism, old age and death, to be administered on a uniform basis and nation-wide scale by non-partisan commissions with adequate labor and farmer representation.

Labor Legislation

1. The practice of interfering by injunction in labor disputes, no matter in what manner and on what grounds, is unjustifiable and oppressive, we demand the enactment of appropriate legislation or constitutional amendment to prohibit this misuse of the injunction process.
2. A Congressional enactment declaring illegal "yellow-dog" contracts, which prevent the workers from joining trade unions.
3. The government shall not give work to any firm which refuses to recognize a union.
4. A rest period of not less than two days in each week.
5. The abolition of the brutal exploitation of convicts under the contract system.
6. Appropriate legislation for factory safeguards and prevention of occupational diseases.
7. Abolition of all inter-state detective agencies engaged in industrial work.

Taxation

For the proper support of government and as a step toward social justice we propose:

1. Increase of taxation on high income levels, of corporation taxes and inheritance taxes, the proceeds to be used for social insurance.

2. Appropriation by taxation of the annual rental value of all land held for speculation.

Nationalization

We favor immediate nationalization of the banks, insurance companies, railroads, coal mines, oil wells, water power sites, and interstate giant power systems under administrative boards representative of the employees, and the public.

Farm Relief

In addition to the help which would be given the farming population by enactment of our other demands, Socialists think the farmer is entitled to special consideration. Therefore, we propose:

1. Acquisition by bona fide cooperative societies and by Federal, State, and municipal governments of grain elevators, flour mills, creameries, implement factories, stockyards, storage warehouses and other distributing agencies and the conduct of these services on a non-profit basis.
2. Government insurance against losses due to adverse weather conditions, such as hail, drought, cyclone and flood.

Hoover's aid to drought-stricken farmers is a fine example of "locking the barn after the horse has been stolen."

Civil Liberties

The restoration of the Constitutional rights of freedom of speech, press and assembly, by repeal of the Espionage law and of criminal syndicalist laws, and by the release of all political prisoners.

The Negroes

Legislation making participation in lynching a felony. No government aid to "jim-crow" schools. The rigid enforcement of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments with reference to the Negroes.

Prohibition

THE Socialist Party recognizes the right of the Government to restrict or prohibit the use of any article noxious to public health or welfare. Such measures, however, can only be effective if they are in accord with public opinion.

The Eighteenth Amendment was enacted in the post-war atmosphere of hysteria and did not reflect the mature judgment and will of the people. Largely for this reason Prohibition has proved practically unenforceable and a fertile source of lawlessness and corruption. It has also monopolized public attention and beclouded more vital social and economic issues.

The Socialist Party proposes that the whole question be resubmitted to the citizens by referendum to determine whether the majority desires the continuation of the Prohibition Amendment, or its repeal or modification and that the deliberate will of the people thus ascertained be enacted uniformly over the whole country by appropriate Congressional legislation or Constitutional amendment, or both.

Tariff

We favor the immediate repeal of the tariff enacted by the last session of Congress and the enactment of a bill for the progressive reduction of protective duties. A tariff between nations is as harmful as one would be between our own States. It is a direct tax on consumers and benefits few persons.

Militarism

We demand the abandonment of the dangerous policy of aggressive militarism and big navy building in competition with other nations and the rapid reduction and ultimate abolition of military and naval armaments. Since all attempts at limitation of armaments by general international agreement have heretofore failed because of the insincerity of capitalist diplomacy and, since the United States is in less danger of attack than any other great nation, we believe that our Government would further and insure the cause of universal peace by setting an example of voluntary disarmament regardless of the military or naval policy of other nations.

International Relations

WE are unalterably opposed to imperialism and militarism. Therefore, we propose:

1. The immediate abandonment of the policy of military intervention in Central America.
2. That all private loans and investments of American citizens in foreign countries shall be made at the sole risk of the bondholders and investors. The United States government shall not resort to force against foreign countries for the protection of money.
3. Cancellation of all war debts due the United States from its former associated powers—on condition of a simultaneous cancellation of all interrelated debts and a corresponding remission of the reparation obligations of the Central Powers, and on the further condition that our debtors reduce their military expenditures below pre-war level.
4. Recognizing both the services and the limitations of the League of Nations, the need of revision of its covenant and of the Treaty of Versailles, we unite with the workers of Europe in demanding that the League be made all-inclusive and democratic. We favor the entry of the United States at the time and under conditions which will further these clauses and promote the peace of the world.
5. Immediate adherence of the U. S. to the International Labor organization and the World Court.
6. The recognition of the Russian government.
7. A Constitutional amendment or appropriate and binding international treaties for the arbitration of all international disputes.

Colonial Affairs

Extension of the Bill of Rights to all territories and dependencies. Independence for the Philippines on terms agreed upon in negotiations with the Filipinos; autonomy for Porto Rico, Cuba, Haiti; civil government for the Virgin Islands.

Political Democracy

THE immediate calling of a national constitutional convention for the purpose of coordinating the functions of government, eliminating needless offices and officeholders, and making government responsive to popular majorities. A modernized Constitution should provide, among other things, for the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote of the people, for reduction of the representa-

tion in Congress of those states where large sections of the citizens are disfranchised by force or fraud, proportional representation, and for the extension of the powers of Congress to enact labor and social legislation.

Conclusion

The Socialist party appeals to the wage and salaried workers, to the working farmers and all those who champion their interest, to march forward for our common liberation from exploitation and class strife; from mismanagement and waste; from poverty and unemployment; the ever pressing menace of war and the crushing burden of militarism; from the destruction of our civil liberties and the corruption of our political institutions to the security and justice which the realization of Socialism assures.



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